

AMENDMENT UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 1.111
U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/287,570
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q53866

REMARKS

I. Claims

With this Amendment, Applicants cancel Claims 1-2, 18, 25-26, 42, 49-50, 66, 72-73, 91, 96-97, 107, 114-115, 125, 132-133, and 143. Therefore, Claims 3-4, 6, 8-9, 11-12, 15-17, 19-24, 27-28, 30, 32-33, 35-36, 39-41, 43-48, 51-52, 54, 56-57, 59-60, 64-65, 67-71, 74-82, 88, 92-95, 98-105, 108-113, 116-123, 126-131, 134-141, 144-167 are all the claims pending in the application.

A. Allowed Claims and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowance of Claims 17, 77, 79, and 162.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 3-4, 8-9, 11, 19-24, 27-28, 32, 35, 43-48, 51-52, 56, 59-60, 67-71, 74, 88, 92-95, 98-99, 101, 103, 105, 108-113, 116-123, 126-131, 134-141, and 144-148 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form, including all the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Applicants have amended these claims, accordingly. Applicants note, however, that Claim 74, included among the Examiner's list of claims which would be allowed if rewritten into independent form, is already an independent claim. Therefore, Applicants will proceed under the presumption that Claim 74 is allowed. If the Examiner disagrees with this presumption, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner advise the Applicants of the current state of Claim 74.

B. Claim Rejections Under §112

Claims 6, 12, 16, 30, 33, 36, 39-41, 54, 57, 64-65, 75-82, 100, 102, 104, 149-161, 163-167 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Applicants note that the Examiner has not included Claim 15 among those claims which are rejected under §112. However, the language of Claim 15 parallels that of Claim 39, and therefore, Applicants amend Claim 15, as noted here, as well.

Applicants address the §112, second paragraph rejections as follows.

Claims 16, 40-41, 64-65, 78-82, 149-153, 158, and 161 recite a “second control signal” and a “third control signal,” but fail to recite a first control signal. Applicants amend these claims to recite instead a “first control signal” and a “second control signal.”

Claims 75-77, 156, 159, and 167 recite a “second control signal,” but not a first control signal. Applicants amend these claims to recite instead a “control signal.”

Claims 6, 12, 15, 30, 33, 36, 39, 54, 57, 100, 102, 104, and 163 recite a “third control signal,” but not a second control signal. Applicants amend these claims to recite instead a “second control signal.”

Claims 157, 160, and 166 recite a “third control signal,” but not a first or a second control signal. Applicants amend these claims to recite instead a “control signal.”

Claims 154 and 155 recite a “first control signal,” but depend from claims 149 and 150, respectively, which, as amended, recite a first and second control signal. Therefore, Applicants amend these claims to recite instead a “third control signal.”

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Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments are not intended to narrow the scope of the original claims, but are rather for precision of language and to explicitly recite within the claim what was believed to have already been implicitly defined therein.

Accordingly, these amendments do not foreclose application of reasonable equivalents.

In light of the above-mentioned amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the §112, second paragraph rejection from claims 6, 12, 16, 30, 33, 36, 39-41, 54, 57, 64-65, 75-82, 100, 102, 104, 149-161, 163, and 166-167.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection of Claims 164 and 165 under §112, second paragraph is in error. Claim 164 recites a "second control signal." Claim 165 recites a "second control signal" and a "third control signal." However, both claims depend from Claim 162, which recites a "first control signal," thus providing proper precedent for the second and third control signals as recited in Claims 164 and 165.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of Claims 6, 12, 16, 30, 33, 36, 39-41, 54, 57, 64-65, 75-82, 100, 102, 104, 149-161, 163-167 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has not rejected any of Claims 6, 12, 16, 30, 33, 36, 39-41, 54, 57, 64-65, 75-82, 100, 102, 104, 149-161, or 163-167 over any prior art. Therefore, due to the cancellation of Claims 1-2, 18, 25-26, 42, 49-50, 66, 72-73, 91, 96-97, 107, 114-115, 125, 132-133, and 143, discussed above, Applicants have amended Claims 6, 12, 16, 30, 33, 36, 39-41, 54, 57, 64-65, 75-82, 100, 102, 104, 149-161, or 163-167 in order to place them into independent form, and

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respectfully submit that they are currently in proper form for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

C. Claim Rejections Under §102

Claims 1-2, 25-26, 49-50, 72-73, 96-97, 114-115, and 132-133 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Hirohashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,600, 471 ("Hirohashi"). Applicants have cancelled these claims, as noted above.

D. Claim Rejections Under §103

Claims 18, 42, 66, 91, 107, 125, and 143 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Hirohashi in view of Ueno et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,574,785 ("Ueno"). Applicants have cancelled these claims, as noted above.

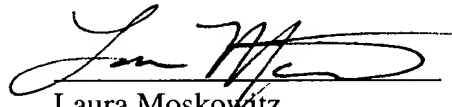
II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



Laura Moskowitz
Registration No. P-55,470

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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